

B3  
page assigned to the patient and maintained, for example, by the service provider. The questionnaire may also serve as a checklist, in order that the patient or other person ascertains all the relevant data.--.

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Page 5, replace the paragraph, beginning on line 32, bridging pages 5 and 6, as follows:

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B4  
--The object is also achieved by a medical system for the postdischarge surveillance of a patient for detecting a case of pneumonia, secondary bleeding, a wound healing problem, a pulmonary complication, a urinary tract infection or a thrombosis of the patient, having a data bank which is arranged at a location other than the location at which the patient is based during the surveillance and stores data relevant for the postdischarge surveillance of the patient recorded during the postdischarge surveillance, an evaluation device assigned to the data bank for the evaluation of the relevant data and an alarm device for generating an alarm signal if the evaluated relevant data are critical. The medical system is consequently characterized in that, in particular, typical postoperative complications of a patient can be detected at an early stage, although the patient was, in particular, discharged at an early stage from the hospital. During the postdischarge surveillance, the patient or another person, such as for example a relative or a caregiver, records data relevant for the detection of complications and transmits them to a central data bank. The

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data bank may, for example, be arranged at the hospital in which the patient was treated. Consequently, on the one hand the patient does not have to be treated as an inpatient, thereby saving costs, and on the other hand the doctor treating the patient has the possibility at any time of viewing the relevant data and accordingly detecting complications at an early stage and, if necessary, initiating remedial measures for the patient.-

Page 6, on line 27, insert the following heading:

B5 --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--;

on line 35, insert the following heading:

B6 --DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--;

replace the paragraph, beginning on line 36, bridging pages 6 and 7, as follows:

B7  
--Shown schematically in figure 1 is a patient 1 at his home 2, the patient having undergone an operation in a hospital 3 and been discharged to go home by his doctor 4 after the operation. During the operation, in the case of the present exemplary embodiment, a general anesthesia with intubation was carried out on the patient 1, exposing the patient 1 to an increased risk of developing an inflammation of the lungs as a typical postoperative complication. Therefore, in the case of the present exemplary embodiment, the patient 1 is visited once every day by a caregiver 5, who ascertains data on the patient 1 relevant for detecting pulmonary complications, such as for

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example an inflammation of the lungs as a typical postoperative complication.--.

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Page 7, replace the paragraph, beginning on line 13, as follows:

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--In order that some of the relevant data are not inadvertently forgotten during the ascertainment of the relevant data, the caregiver 5 has a questionnaire 6, which is assigned to the patient 1, is shown by way of example in figure 2 and serves at the same time as a checklist for ascertaining the relevant data.--;

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replace the paragraph, beginning on line 20, as follows:

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--As shown in figure 2, the relevant data in the case of the present exemplary embodiment comprise information on the general condition of the patient 1 and information specifically suitable for detecting a pulmonary complication. In order to obtain the relevant data, the caregiver 5 asks the patient 1 about his physical capabilities, his bowel movement and his appetite or ascertains the occurrence of coughing or expectoration and notes the corresponding answers on the questionnaire 6. Subsequently, the caregiver 5 ascertains the temperature, the pulse, the blood pressure, the blood sugar level and the respiration rate of the patient 1 with measuring instruments which are generally known and not shown in figure 1, such as for example a fever thermometer, a blood-pressure

89 measuring instrument, urine sticks, etc., and notes the corresponding values on the questionnaire 6.--;

replace the paragraph, beginning on line 36, bridging pages 7 and 8, as follows:

B10 --Subsequently, the caregiver 5 faxes the questionnaire 6 by a fax machine 7 arranged at the home 2 of the patient 1 to a fax machine 8 which is arranged at a call center 9 of a service provider 10. One of the persons 11 working at the call center 9 enters the relevant data, transmitted by means of the faxed questionnaire, in a computer 12 which is arranged at the call center 9 and is connected to a data bank 13 in a way not represented in figure 1. The relevant data are stored in the data bank 13 with the identity of the patient 1 and the date on which the relevant data were ascertained.--.

Page 9, replace the paragraph, beginning on line 24, as follows:

B11 --Another possibility for transmitting the relevant data on the patient 1 to the data bank 13 is the use of the computer 19 connected to the Internet. In the case of the present exemplary embodiment, the patient 1 or the caregiver 5 uses the computer 19 to contact a WWW home page assigned to the patient 1 and maintained by the service provider 10. The WWW home page comprises the questionnaire 6 shown in figure 2. The patient 1 or the caregiver 5 subsequently ascertains the relevant data, specified on the questionnaire 6 and already described

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above, and enters them in the questionnaire 6 of the WWW home page. Once the relevant data have been entered in the questionnaire 6, they are transmitted to the data bank 13 and evaluated by the evaluation device 14.--.

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Page 10, replace the paragraph, beginning on line 1, as follows:

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B12  
--A further possibility for transmitting the relevant data is that the patient 1 or the caregiver 5 transmits the relevant data by telephone to one of the persons 11 of the call center 9.--;

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replace the paragraph, beginning on line 15, as follows:

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B13  
--The patient 1 does not necessarily have to be kept under surveillance by a caregiver 5. He may also be kept under surveillance by a relative or can ascertain the relevant data himself and transmit them at least indirectly to the data bank 13.--;

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replace the paragraph, beginning on line 33, bridging pages 10 and 11, as follows:

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B14  
--The data bank 13 may also be provided with means suitable for voice input and voice reproduction. Then the patient 1 or the caregiver 5 can contact the data bank 13 directly by telephone and transmit the relevant data by telephone to the data bank 13 on the basis of an interactive program procedure stored on the data bank 13.--.

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